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Title: Need to improve the service conditions of drivers of Express/Mail trains in Sealdah and Howrah Divisions of Eastern Railway.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): I draw the attention to the Minister of Railways towards the train accident that have occurred in various parts of the country due to excess duty hours being put in by the drivers.

I already wrote a letter to the Minister of State for Railways on 03.08.2007 regarding the problem being faced by the drivers of Express/Mail train specially in Sealdah and Howrah Division of Eastern Railways.

For example 3111/12 Up/Dn, 5047/5049/5051 Up and 5048/5050/5052 Dn Sealdah crew are working from Kolkata to Janjha. But all the crew of 6 trains are working from Howrah to Asansol and other crew from Asansol to Janjha. As a result of this, there exist disparities between Sealdah crew and Howrah, Asansol crew. These disparities has led to long hours of duties, unwillingness to become a Loco Pilot Mail/Express from Loco Pilot Passenger, Traffic blockage, excess mental and physical pressure. A strong resentment is brewing among the Loco Pilot Mail/Express for being relieved at Janjha instead of Asansol.

Over & above they have to bear an uncomfortable rest in Janjha because of shortage of accommodation. Inspite of that the responsibility will be fixed on drivers and punishment will be enforced to the drivers if accidents occur.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to please give justice to Sealdah Division/Howrah Division Loco Pilot Mail /Express in respect of Howrah and Asansol Loco Pilot Mail/Express.